

WATER CONDITIONS

As of September 30 (the end of Water Year 2008), statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 60 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 70 percent of average for the date. As of June 10, the date of the last water supply forecast this water year, the projected median April-July runoff for the water supply basins ranged from 78 percent (Kings River) to 47 percent (Tule River). Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through September 30, 2008 was about 10.2 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 55 percent of average. (On September 30, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 10.3 MAF or also about 55 percent of average.)

On September 30, the Northern Sierra 8-station Index had a seasonal total of 34.9 inches, which is 70% of the seasonal average to date and 70 percent of an average Water Year (50.0"). For the 8-Station Index, Water Year 2008 is the 15th driest year out of 88 years of record. The Spring of 2008 turned out to be extremely dry: for the 8-Station Index, the Water Year 2008 combined March through June total precipitation was only 3.4 inches, the driest on record (since 1921). The 2-year combined total precipitation for Water Years 2007 (37.2 inches) and 2008 (34.9 inches) is 72.1 inches, the ninth driest 2-year period on record.

January and early February brought significant amounts of precipitation to California, including heavy snowfall in the mountains. California's large water supply reservoirs received some inflow from these storms; however, the amounts were muted because much of the precipitation fell as snow. Very dry hydrologic conditions prevail, because precipitation was significantly below average during Water Year 2007 and the Spring of Water Year 2008. Storage in most of the major water supply reservoirs is significantly below average. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes were both classified as "Critical" during Water Year 2008.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 10/01/2008 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2007 - 2008
Eureka	0.54	38	1.68	117	1
Redding	0.01	1	1.35	171	0
Sacramento	0.00	0	0.07	15	0
San Francisco	0.01	3	0.16	52	0
Fresno	0.01	3	0.04	14	0
Bakersfield	0.00	0	0.13	57	0
Los Angeles	0.00	0	0.52	111	0
San Diego	0.00	0	0.05	15	0

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 10/01/2008

Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,132	1,696	67	2,448	46	---	1,316
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	1,382	2,807	49	4,552	30	-3,149	3,170
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,097	2,248	49	3,538	31	-2,241	2,441
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	522	588	89	966	54	-385	444
Folsom Lake	American	269	556	48	977	28	-700	708
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,098	1,330	83	2,420	45	-1,166	1,322
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,051	1,361	77	2,030	52	-709	979
Lake McClure	Merced	279	463	60	1,025	27	-568	746
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	198	202	98	520	38	-317	322
Pine Flat Res	Kings	121	347	35	1,000	12	-879	879
Isabella	Kern	121	183	66	568	21	-178	447
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	234	997	24	2,039	11	---	1,805

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for October 2008, issued September 30, 2008, forecasts above average precipitation for Northern California, and average precipitation for the rest of the State.